



**REMARKS BY**

**MS. DRESSLER SHERMAN  
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT**

**FOR THE**

**NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT**

**FAITH TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**

**“FLAG RAISING CEREMONY”**

**FRIDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2010**

**8:30 AM**

**FAITH TEMPLE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
PRINCE CHARLES DRIVE**

**SALUTATIONS:**

**Principal, Mr. Theophilus Claridge;**

**Vice Principal,**

**Teachers;**

**Distinguished guests;**

---

---

---

---

**Students;**

**Good morning.**

**It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure to be here today to represent our illustrious Permanent Secretary, Mrs. Elma Garraway on this occasion. Mrs. Garraway, unfortunately is unable to be here on this occasion, so I will do my best to share her passion for the topic, “The Importance of Patriotism and National Pride in a Developing Country”.**

**We in the Ministry of Education are pleased that this institution has opted to observe this tradition of a Flag Raising Ceremony. It suggests that you desire to teach your students the importance of patriotism and pride in our Flag through raising their awareness of the significance of our flag and struggles involved in achieving this national symbol.**

**Students, you are fortunate for having this experience - because by being privy to the lesson on the importance of The Flag, you are preparing yourself for good citizenship, and more importantly, you are reliving a moment in history of The Bahamas that is revered and sacred.**

**For those who were on Clifford Park and saw the Union Jack, lowered and the Aquamarine, Gold and Black was raised some thirty seven years ago, they have never forgotten that moment. When your grandparents or great-grand parents they saw the Bahamian flag flying in the sky for the first time on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 1973 they had nothing but a feeling pride. This simple act symbolized so many things for Bahamians, among them:**

- **True freedom**
- **Self-governance**
- **Self-determination**
- **National Pride**
- **Freedom of Expression**
- **Freedom of Choice**

**This Flag that some seem to disrespect is the most tangible evidence that we are Bahamians. If we did not have it, we would still be citizens of the British Commonwealth and things might be very different. You only have to look at what is going on in the Turks and Caicos Islands where the British Government has stepped into to**

**assume leadership of this territory because they were not satisfied with the way local officials were ruling the country.**

**Imagine for a second, if we were a British territory and they were not satisfied with our leadership and they decided to step in and take over our Parliament. This could very well mean a change in the quality and way of life for you students. It is therefore imperative that you do not take the Flag and all that it represents lightly.**

**We would wish you to remember that when you respect the Flag and things Bahamians you are showing the ultimate respect to our ancestors. You are demonstrating to them that you are proud of who they were and the legacy they represented.**

**While we remember heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, such as Dr. Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks, let not forget the heroes of The Bahamas whose fight for freedom started as early as the 1940s.**

**These persons included:**

**Sir Milo Butler**

**Claudius R. Walker**

**Leon W. Young**

**Samuel C. McPherson**

**Sir Lynden Pindling**

**Clarence A. Bain**

**Dr. Curtis Macmillian**

**Eugenia Lockhart**

**Mary Ingraham**

**Former Governor General Arthur Hanna.**

**We are a developing country – a young nation and it is important that we display national pride because without it we have no identity. If we disregard The Flag, our National Anthem and our culture then we are saying to the world that we do not like who we are, we would rather be some one else.**

**This Flag Raising Ceremony serves as a reminder that we have a duty to our nation to be good citizens. Good Citizens are people who respect the laws and obey them. They are people who use their life to contribute to nation-building and service.**

**Good citizens are persons who feel that they have an obligation to help the less fortunate in society. Lastly, good citizens are persons who have a strong sense of identity and are passionate in the efforts to show it. Good citizens are not so easily swayed by changing times – they know who they are, from where they have come and where they are going. Today, the question is- “Are you are the road to becoming a good citizen?”**

**While this occasion may seem insignificant at this moment in your life, when you get a bit older you will realize that our flag represents who we are as a united people. If you were to go on the internet and Google, the word Bahamas on the internet, more than likely you will see the flag pop up.**

**When the world gathers for the Olympics and the nations parade in front of millions they are led by their flags. When our Golden Girls and our Silver Medal Men crossed the finish line they grab the flag to say I am a Bahamian - My Flag says so.**

**I implore you students to see The Flag as more than a piece of fabric flowing in the breeze or a token to showcase just for Independence Day. See it as the men and women who fought so that you could choices and privileges - the choice and privilege to attend this institution of excellence; the choice and privilege to live, work, and travel wherever you choose.**

**Think of the Flag as the hopes and dreams of our ancestors and presented as a gift to you to pass on to future generations.**

**Treasure the Flag as you would a valuable heirloom, because that is what it is.**

**Thank you and all the best in your quest to become good citizens of the world and by extension The Bahamas.**

